PATENTS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Tor JOHANSSON

Serial No. 09/980,494 (PCT/FI00/00487)

application of

BOX PCT

Filed December 4, 2001

BREATHABLE THERMOPLASTIC POLYMER CASING FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF MEAT, PRODUCTS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In compliance with Rules 1.97 and 1.98, and in ful-fillment of the duty of disclosure under Rule 1.56, the following documents, copies of which are attached to this statement, are made of record on the enclosed sheet.

A concise explanation of the relevance of the following items is that we are advised by our client that these references were discovered during any searches they or their client had made, or that they were considered in the preparation of the application:

EP 850567, U.S. 4,780,326, U.S. 3,935,320, EP 378015, EP 688826, EP 737709, EP 803348, WO 9826004, EP 829506, EP 842969, WO 9907769, EP 848019, EP 476963, EP 91800, EP 613919. Apart from the last of these (which is in English), concise descriptions of the relevance are given in the opening pages of the present specification.

In addition, the remaining documents, copies of which are attached to this statement, are also made of record on the enclosed sheet.

A concise explanation of the relevance of these latter items is that we are advised by our client that these references were cited by the Finnish Patent Office in the corresponding Finnish application Serial No. 991280 and/or the corresponding International application No. PCT/FI00/00487. Copies of the Finnish Official Action and the International Search Report in which they were cited are attached hereto. An English translation of the Finnish Official Action is also attached hereto.

For the Examiner's convenience and greater understanding of certain of these references, U.S. counterparts are filed herewith as follows.

Foreign Reference	U.S. Counterpart
EP 0848019	5,959,055
FI 92169	4,892,765
EP 378015	5,506,024
EP 688826	5,800,928
EP 737709	5,888,597
EP 842969	5,959,042

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

Ву

Robert J. Patch
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Registration No. 17,355
745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202

Telephone: 703/521-2297

January 31, 2002

FORM PTO-1449 ENT OF COMMERCE TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTY. DOCKET NO. FI991280/AH SERIAL NO.

09/980,494

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use several sheets if necessary)

(37 CFR 1.98(b))

APPLICANT Tor JOHANSSON

FILING DATE

GROUP

December 4, 2001

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		PATENT NUMBER	ISSUE DATE	PATENTEE	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA	5,959,055	9/99	Le Blevec et al.			
	АВ	5,959,042	9/99 ·	Bouilloux et al.			
	AC	5,888,597	3/99	Frey et al.			
	AD	5,840,807	11/98	Frey et al.			_
	AE	5,800,928	11/98	Fischer et al.			
	AF	5,506,024	4/96	Flesher			
	AG	4,892,765 .	1/90	Hisazumi et al.			
	АН	4,780,326	10/88	Stemmler et al.			
	ΑI	3,935,320	1/76	Chiu et al.			
	AJ						
	AK						

FOREIGN PATENT OR PUBLISHED FOREIGN PATENT APPLICATION

		DOCUMENT NO.	PUBL. DATE	COUNTRY OR PATENT OFFICE	CLASS	SUB CLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
`	AL	850 567	7/98	European			
*24	АМ	848 019	6/98	European			U.S. counterpart
	AN	842 969	5/98	European			U.S. counterpart
`	AO	829 506	3/98	European			English abstract
•	AP	803 348	10/97	European			

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Relevant Pages, Place of Publicati n)

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

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APPLICANT

Tor JOHANSSON

FILING DATE December 4, 2001 GROUP

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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		DOCUMENT NO.	PUBL. DATE	COUNTRY OR PATENT OFFICE	CLASS	SUB CLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
•	AL	737 709	10/96	European			U.S. counterpart
	AM	688 826	12/95	European			U.S. counterpart
`	AN	613 919	9/94	European			
`	AO	476 963	3/92	European			
•	AP	378 015	7/90	European			U.S. counterpart
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use several sheets if necessary)

(37 CFR 1.98(b))

ATTY. DOCKET NO. FI991280/AH SERIAL NO.

09/980,494

APPLICANT

Tor JOHANSSON

FILING DATE

GROUP

December 4, 2001

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS SUB FILING DATE **ISSUE EXAMINER** IF APPROPRIATE INITIAL DATE CLASS **CLASS PATENT NUMBER PATENTEE** AA AB AC AD AE AF AG AΗ ΑI ΑJ AK FOREIGN PATENT OR PUBLISHED FOREIGN PATENT APPLICATION TRANSLATION PUBL. SUB YES NO CLASS **CLASS COUNTRY OR PATENT OFFICE** DOCUMENT NO. DATE 091 800 10/83 European AL U.S. 6/94 Finland AΜ 92169 counterpart International 3/99 AN 99/12735 International 2/99 ΑO 99/07769 International AP 98/26004 6/98 OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Relevant Pages, Place of Publicati n) AR AS AT **DATE CONSIDERED EXAMINER**

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FORM	PTO-1	449 PATENPERABTIKAN	EMARR WATERE	ATTY. DOCKET NO. SERIAL NO. FI991280/AH 09/980,494			
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EXAMINER INITIAL	*	WT & THENT NUMBER	ISSUE DATE	PATENTEE	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FILING DATE
	АА						
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	AL	98/19551	5/98	International			English abstract
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Translation

NATIONAL BOARD OF PATENTS AND REGISTRATION

OFFICIAL ACTION

January 17, 2000

Forssén & Salomaa Oy Yrjönkatu 30 00100 Helsinki

Patent Application No.

991280

Class:

A22C IAB

Applicant:

Eriksson Capital Ab

Agent:

Forssén & Salomaa Oy

Agent's ref.:

AH/TJ

Time limit:

July 17, 2000

The number and the class of the patent application shall be mentioned in your response to the National Board of Patents and Registration

The title in the application document "A breathable polymer casing for stuffing food products" has been translated as "hengittävä polymeerisuoli elintarvikkeiden pakkaamiseen" ("breathable polymer skin for stuffing of food products"). For this reason, the Official Action deals with a "breathable polymer skin and/or casing suitable for stuffing of food products". (The English language expression might also be understood as meaning a "polymer skin and/or casing suitable for stuffable food products"??).

The breathable polymer skin and/or casing for stuffing food products, defined in the claims, does not meet the requirements set on a patentable invention, so it is not possible to allow the present claims:

The claims are broad and indefinitely formulated, and the claims do not state clearly what in it constitutes the invention (note § 8 of the Patents Act).

The skin/casing of the invention defined in claims 1 and 14 has an MVTR value of over 500 g/m2/24h. If the invention is based on this characteristic feature, the embodiment examples do not describe, however, a single MVTR value which would represent the casing in accordance with the invention or that any values of comparison with a non-inventive casing would have been presented. Thus, the polymer casing in accordance with the invention is defined in the claim more broadly than it is possible to consider justified in view of the embodiment examples (point 2 of § 5 of the Patent Rules). The weight loss values of the example sausages described in the embodiment examples cannot be considered to correspond to MVTR values.

On what, in actual fact, is the inventive step of the breathable polymer skin/casing based?

The claims must recite the special features which are necessary for achieving the intended effect (§ 11 of the Patent Rules).

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In addition, it is further pointed out that the present claims are non-uniform (§ 10 of the Patents Act). The breathable polymer skin and/or casing set forth in the claims and well as its use and, on the other hand, the method for manufacturing the breathable polymer skin and/or casing are regarded as mutually independent inventions, i.e. as solutions for mutually independent problems.

Inventions are considered to be dependent on one another if there is a technical connection between all the inventions so that they have in common one or more identical or similar technical special features (§ 16 of the Patent Decree). This is not sufficiently clear from the present claims.

Despite the non-uniformity found in the claims, examination was nevertheless carried out:

In order for a patent to be granted it is required that the invention is new and differs essentially from the prior art (§ 2 of the Patents Act).

The breathable polymer skin and/or casing for stuffing food products, defined in the claims and comprising thermoplastic polymer containing polyether chains and having a moisture vapour transmission rate value of over 500 g/m2/24h, is prior known from the following documents:

- 1) US patents 5,840,807 (C08G 63/00) and 5,888,597 (B29D 22/00): The documents disclose a polymer film which is suitable for packaging food products, such as fruit and meat, and which is based on a polyamide-polyether block polymer. It is stated that the permeability of the film to water vapour is 2000–25000 g/m2/24h. The documents disclose a thermoplastic polymer film fully identical with the one described in the application.
- 2) WO application publication 99/07769 (C08L 71/02): a cover composed of a polyamide-polyether polymer film (for fruit), (in particular, page 3, lines 12-22); MVTR value 1200 g/m2/24h (page 11, examples).
- 3) EP application publication 803 348 (B32B 27/08): A polyalime-polyether block polymer film suitable for packaging food products; MVTR value 1000 g/m2/24h by the JIS Z0208 method.
- 4) EP application publication 848 019 (C08F 210/02): A polymer film containing polyether chains and suitable for packaging food products; MVTR value 2121–10000 g/m2/24h (Table 2, Examples 6 and 6a).
- 5) WO application publication 99/12735 (B32B 27/34):): A layered polymer cover also containing polyether chains (claim 5) and suitable for packaging food products. MVTR values 100-1000 g/m2/24h.
- 6) FI laid-open publication 92169 (B32B 27/08): A laminate film composed of different polymer layers and suitable to packaging meat products, such as sausages.

Even though documents 1-5 do not particularly mention that that the film is suitable specifically for stuffable food products, as described in the present patent application (sausages), this is, however, not considered to constitute any essential difference with respect to the above-mentioned documents 1-6, the polymer films described in them relating to packaging of food products after all. This may be considered to represent so close a technical field that it would not be surprising that a person skilled in the art uses a polymer film which is known from the prior art and composed of polyamide-polyether blocks and which has an MVTR value exceeding 500 g/m2/24h as a cover film/skin for stuffable food products.

If the applicant considers that there is reason to proceed with the case, he shall limit the claims to a single invention. In addition, in his response he shall provide arguments showing the essential difference of his invention as compared with the prior art and describe the unexpectedness of his invention, and correspondingly limit the claims. Furthermore, it is pointed out to the applicant that when amending the claims, § 19 of the Patent Decree shall be taken into account.

In addition, when the prosecution of the application is continued, a Finnish translation of the original description, claims and abstract shall be appended to the application (paragraph 5 of § 8 of the Patents Act, paragraph 3 of § 38 a of the Patent Rules). The translation shall be accompanied by the applicant's or agent's declaration that the translation corresponds to the original documents.

At the same time, the abstract shall also be filed as a Swedish version before the application becomes available to the public according to § 22 of the Patents Act.

./. Copies of the documents cited in duplicate and the search report are enclosed

Examiner

Ia Backman

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Your observations in response to the objections shall be submitted at the latest on the above-mentioned due date. If you fail to file your response at the Patent Office at the latest on said due date or take steps to remedy the deficiencies pointed out in this Official Action, the prosecution of the application will be discontinued (§ 15 of the Patents Act). The prosecution of the dismissed application will be resumed if, within four months from the due date, you file a response or take steps to remedy the deficiencies pointed out and, within the same term, pay the prescribed reinstatement fee, FIM 320. If your response has been filed at the Patent Office within the given term but the deficiencies pointed out have not been remedied so that the application might be accepted, it is refused, unless the Patent Office has reason to issue a further Official Action (§ 16 of the Patents Act). A new description of the invention, the additions made thereto and new claims shall always be filed in two copies and § 19 of the Patent Decree shall then be taken into consideration.

Mailing address: P.O.Box 1160 Street address: Arkadiankatu 6 A Telephone: (09) 6939500 Bankers: Leonia 00101 Helsinki 00100 Helsinki Telefax: (09) 69395328 800015-47908

17.1.2000

Forssén & Salomaa Oy

Yrjönkatu 30

00100 Helsinki

FORSSEN & SALOMAA SAAPUNUT 19.01.2000 MERK MAARAAIKA

Patenttihakemus nro:

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Hakija: Asiamies:

Asiamiehen viite:

Määräpäivä:

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Forssén & Salomaa Oy AH/TJ

17.07.2000

Patenttihakemuksen numero ja luokka on mainittava kirjelmässänne PRH:lle

Hakemuskirjassa oleva nimitys "A breathable polymer casing for stuffing food products" on käännetty "hengittävä polymeerisuoli elintarvikkeiden pakkaamiseen". Tämän vuoksi välipäätöksessä käsitellään "elintarvikkeiden pakkaamiseen soveltuvaa hengittävää polymeerisuolta ja/tai -kalvoa". (Englanninkielisen ilmauksen voisi myös mieltää "täytettäville ruokatavaroille soveltuva hengittävä polymeerisuoli ja/tai -kalvo"??).

Patenttivaatimuksissa määritelty hengittävä polymeerisuoli ja/tai -kalvo elintarvikkei-den pakkaamiseen ei täytä patentoitavalle keksinnölle asetettuja vaatimuksia, joten nykyisten vaatimusten hyväksyminen ei ole mahdollista:

Vaatimukset ovat laajat ja epämääräisesti ilmaistut, eikä vaatimuksista tule täsmällisesti ilmi se, mikä siinä on keksintönä (huom. PL 8§).

Vaatimuksissa 1 ja 14 määritelty keksinnön mukainen suoli/kalvo omaa MVTR-arvon yli 500 g/m2/24h. Jos keksintö perustuu tähän ominaispiirteeseen, sovellutusesimerkeissä ei ole kuitenkaan esitetty yhtään MVTR-arvoa mikä kuvaisi keksinnön mukaista kalvoa tai että olisi esitetty vertailuarvoja ei-keksinnön mukaiseen kalvoon. Näin ollen keksinnön mukainen polymeerikalvo on määritelty vaatimuksessa laajemmin, kuin mitä sovellutusesimerkit huomioon ottaen voidaan pitää perusteltuina (PM 5§, 2. kohta). Sovellutusesimerkeissä esitettyjä esimerkki-makkaroiden painon vähenemisarvoja ei voida pitää vastineena MVTR-arvoille.

Mihin itseasiassa vaatimuksissa määritetyn hengittävän polymeerisuolen/-kalvon keksin-nöllisyys perustuu?

Vaatimuksessa on esitettävä ne erityispiirteet, jotka ovat välttämättömät tarkoitetun vaikutuksen aikaansaamiseksi (PM 11§).

Lisäksi vielä huomautetaan, että nykyiset vaatimukset ovat epäyhtenäiset (PL 10§). Vaatimuksissa esitettyä hengittävää polymeerisuolta ja/tai kalvoa sekä tämän käyttöä ja toisaalta menetelmää hengittävän polymeerisuolen ja/tai kalvon valmistamiseksi pidetään toisistaan riippumattomina keksintöinä, ts. ratkaisuina toisistaan riippumattomiin ongelmiin.

Keksintöjen katsotaan olevan toisistaan riippuvaisia, jos kaikkien keksintöjen välillä on tekninen yhteys siten, että niille on yhteistä yksi tai useampi samanlainen tai vastaavanlainen tekninen erityispiirre (PA 16§). Nykyisistä vaatimuksista tämä ei tule riittävästi esille.

Huolimatta vaatimuksissa esiintyvästä epäyhtenäisyydestä, uutuustutkimus kuitenkin suoritettiin:

Postiosoite: Pl 1160 Katuosoite: Arkadiankatu 6 A Puhelin: (09) 6939500 Pankki: Leonia 00101 Helsinki 00100 Helsinki Telefax: (09) 69395328 800015-47908

Patentoinnin edellytyksenä on, että keksintö on uusi ja eroaa olennaisesti ennestään tunnetusta tekniikasta (PL 2§).

Patenttivaatimuksissa määritelty hengittävä polymeerisuoli ja/tai -kalvo elintarvikkeiden pakkaamiseen, joka koostuu polyeetteriketjuja sisältävästä termoplastisesta polymeeristä, sekä omaa vesihöyryn siirtymänopeusarvon yli 500 g/m2/24h, on ennestään tunnettu seuraavista julkaisuista:

- 1) US patenttijulkaisut 5 840 807 (C08G 63/00) ja 5 888 597 (B29D 22/00): Julkaisuista tunnetaan ruokatavaroiden, kuten hedelmien ja lihan, pakkaamiseen soveltuva polymeerikalvo, joka perustuu polyamidi-polyeetteri blokkipolymeeriin. Kalvon vesihöyryn läpäisevyys ilmoitetaan olevan 2000-25000 g/m2/24h. Julkaisuista tunnetaan täysin vastaava termoplastinen polymeerikalvo, kuin hakemuksessa on esitetty.
- 2) WO hakemusjulkaisu 99/07769 (CO8L 71/02): polyamidi-polyeetteri polymeerikalvosta koostuva päällys (hedelmille), (erityisesti s.3, r.12-22); MVTR-arvo 1200 g/m2/24h (s.11, esimerkit).
- 3) EP hakemusjulkaisu 803 348 (B32B 27/08): Ruokatavaroiden paakkaamiseen soveltuva 1000 g/m2/24hblokkipolymeeri-kalvo; MVTR-arvo polyamidi-polyeetteri Z0208-menetelmällä.
- 4) EP hakemusjulkaisu 848 019 (C08F 210/02): Ruokatavaroiden paakkaamiseen soveltuva polyeetteriketjuja sisältävä polymeeri-kalvo; MVTR-arvo 2121-10000 g/m2/24h (taulukko 2, esim. 6 ja 6a).
- 5) WO hakemusjulkaisu 99/12735 (B32B 27/34): Ruokatavaroiden pakkaamiseen soveltuva kerroksittainen, myös polyeetteriketjuja (vaatimus 5) sisältävä polymeeripäällys. MVTR-arvot 100-1000 g/m2/24h.
- 6) FI kuulutusjulkaisu 92169 (B32B 27/08): Lihatuotteiden, kuten makkaroiden pakkaamiseen soveltuva eri polymeerikerroksista koostuva laminaattikalvo.

Vaikka julkaisuissa 1-5 ei erityisesti mainita kalvon soveltuvan juuri täytettäville ruokatavaroille kuten eo. hakemuksessa on esitetty (makkarat), sen ei kuitenkaan katsota muodostavan olennaista eroa em. julkaisuihin 1-6 nähden, joissa esitetyt polymeerikalvot kuitenkin kohdistuvat ruokatavaroiden pakkaamiseen. Tämän voidaan katsoa olevan niin läheistä teknistä alaa, ettei alan ammattimiehelle olisi yllätyksellistä käyttää tekniikan tasosta tunnettua polyamidi-polyeetteriblokeista koostuvaa polymeerikalvoa, jonka MVTR-arvo on yli 500 g/m2/24h, täytettävien ruokatavaroiden päällyskalvona/suolena.

Mikäli hakija katsoo aiheelliseksi jatkaa asian käsittelyä, tulee hänen rajoittaa vaatimukset yhteen keksintöön. Lisäksi tulee hänen vastineessaan perustella keksintönsä olennainen ero verrattuna tunnettuun tekniikkaan sekä esittää keksintönsä yllätyksellisyys, ja rajata vastaavasti vaatimukset. Lisäksi hakijalle huomautetaan, että vaatimuksia korjattaessa tulee ottaa huomioon PA 19§.

Lisäksi hakemuksen käsittelyä jatkettaessa tulee hakemukseen liittää alkuperäisen selityksen, patenttivaatimusten ja tiivistelmän suomenkielinen käännös (PL 8 § 5 mom, PM 38 a § 3 mom). Käännöksen mukana tulee seurata hakijan tai asiamiehen vakuutus siitä, että käännös vastaa alkuperäisiä asiakirjoja.

Tiivistelmä tulee samalla esittää myös ruotsinkielisenä ennen kuin hakemus PL 22 §:n mukaan tulee julkiseksi.

7. Back

./. Liitteenä viitejulkaisukopiot kahtena kappaleena sekä tutkimusraportti

Ia Backman

Tutkijainsinööri Puhelin:

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1. Lausumanne huomautusten dosta on annettava viimeistään yhtimainittuna määräpäivänä.
Jollette ole antanut lausukanne virastoon viimeistään mainitta määräpäivänä tai ryhtynyt toimenpiteisiin tässä välipäätöksessä esitettyjen puutteellisuuksien korjaamiseksi, jätetään hakemus sillensä (patenttilain 15 §). Sillensä jätetty hakemus otetaan uudelleen käsiteltäväksi, jos Te neljän kuukauden kuluessa määräpäivästä annatte lausumanne tai ryhdytte toimenpiteisiin esitettyjen puutteellisuuksien korjaamiseksi ja samassa ajassa suoritatte vahvistetun maksun, 320 mk hakemuksen ottamisesta uudelleen käsiteltäväksi. Jos lausumanne on annettu virastoon oikeassa ajassa, mutta esitettyjä puutteellisuuksia ei ole siten korjattu, että hakemus voitaisiin hyväksyä, se hylätään, mikäli virastolla ei ole aihetta antaa Teille uutta välipäätöstä (patenttilain 16 §). Uusi keksinnön selitys, siihen tehdyt lisäykset ja uudet patenttivaatimukset on aina jätettävä kahtena kappaleena ja tällöin on otettava huomioon patenttiasetuksen 19 §.

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00100 Helsinki



PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference AH/FI991280	FOR FURTHER ACTION	see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.			
International application No.	International filing dat	te (day month year)	(Earliest) Priority Date (day month year)		
PCT/FI 00/00487	31 May 2000		4 June 1999		
Applicant					
Eriksson Capital AB					
This international search report has applicant according to Article 18. A This international search report cons X It is also accompanied by a	copy is being transmitte	ed to the Internation: sheets.			
1. Certain claims were found u	insearchable (See Box I)).			
2. Unity of invention is lacking	; (See Box II).				
international search was can	rried out on the basis of iled with the international urnished by the applican but not accom	the sequence listing al application. at separately from the apparence by a statem beyond the disclosur	amino acid sequence listing and the sequence listing and the sequence listing and the sequence international application, the international application as filed.		
4. With regard to the title, [A]	he text is approved as su he text has been establis				
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b ligate No.	published with the abstract suggested by the applipactor of the applicant fail occause this figure better	cant. led to suggest a figu			

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

PCT/FI 00/00487

A.	CLASSIF	ICATION	OF SUE	BJECT	MATTER
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IPC7: C08J 5/18, A22C 13/00
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC7: C08J, A22C

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

SE,DK,FI,NO classes as above

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

B51, WPI

c. docu	MENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT	
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Х	WO 9819551 A1 (KALLE NALO GMBH), 14 May 1998 (14.05.98), page 3, line 6 - line 10; claims	1-26
х	EP 0803348 A1 (ELF ATOCHEM S.A.), 29 October 1997 (29.10.97), abstract; column 1, line 14 - line 16; column 2, line 11 - line 25; claims	1-26
x	US 5840807 A (ALAIN FREY ET AL), 24 November 1998 (24.11.98), abstract; claims; column 2, line 10 - line 16	1-26
x	US 5888597 A (ALAIN FREY ET AL), 30 March 1999 (30.03.99), abstract; claims	1-26
Furth	er documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family anne	x.

to be of particular referance						
"E" erlier document but published on	or after the international filing date	"X"	document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive			
 "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed 			step when the document is taken alone			
		"Y"	document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be			
			considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination			
			being obvious to a person skilled in the art			
		"&"	document member of the same patent family			
		Date of mailing of the international search report				
Date of the actual completion	of the international search	Date of	of mailing of the international search report			
Date of the actual completion	of the international search	Date o				
	of the international search	Date o	of mailing of the international search report 1 6 -10- 2000			
Date of the actual completion 4 October 2000 Name and mailing address of						
4 October 2000			1 6 -10- 2000			
4 October 2000 Name and mailing address of	the ISA/	Autho	1 6 -10- 2000			

Special categories of cited documents:

document defining the general state of the art which is not considered

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Form PCT/ISA/210 (continuation of second sheet) (July 1992)

International application No.

PCT/FI 00/00487

		101/11 00/00	, , , ,
C (Continu	ation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
ategory*		ant passages	Relevant to claim No
х	WO 9907769 A2 (ELF ATOCHEM S.A.), 18 February (18.02.99), abstract	1999	1-26
			
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT Information on patent family members

International application No.

PCT/FI 00/00487

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	nt document 1 search report		Publication date	P	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
MO	9819551	A1	14/05/98	DE EP HU PL	19645276 A 0935423 A 9904296 A 333052 A	07/05/98 18/08/99 28/04/00 08/11/99
EP	0803348	A1	29/10/97	CA CN JP US	2203563 A 1168391 A 9286077 A 6063505 A	24/10/97 24/12/97 04/11/97 16/05/00
US	5840807	A	24/11/98	CA CN EP JP NO US	2173816 A 1137471 A 0737709 A 8283432 A 961402 A 5888597 A	12/10/96 11/12/96 16/10/96 29/10/96 14/10/96 30/03/99
US	5888597	A	30/03/99	CA CN EP JP NO US	2173816 A 1137471 A 0737709 A 8283432 A 961402 A 5840807 A	12/10/96 11/12/96 16/10/96 29/10/96 14/10/96 24/11/98
MO	9907769	A2	18/02/99	AU EP JP	9738098 A 0942953 A 11060942 A	01/03/99 22/09/99 05/03/99